

10/526290
DT01 Rec'd PCT/PCT 01 MAR 2005

In the Claims:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A cardiovascular stent comprising:
a generally tubular body, and
a synthetic one-way valve capable of moving from a first open position to a second closed position, wherein, in use, movement of fluid in a first direction through the stent causes the valve to adopt the open position and movement of fluid in a second opposite direction causes the valve to adopt the closed position.
2. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the valve is formed from resilient material.
3. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in claim 2, wherein the valve is constructed such that, in use, movement of fluid in the first direction through the stent urges the resilient material of the valve to adopt a configuration in which the aperture defined by the material is substantially circular in cross-section thereby enabling increased fluid to flow through the valve and thus through the stent.
4. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in claim 2, ~~or 3~~ wherein the valve comprises two leaflets formed from resilient material and wherein, in use, when fluid is flowing in the second direction through the stent or when no fluid is flowing through the stent, the leaflets are urged towards each other such that the passage of fluid is minimised.
5. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the valve comprises at least one cantilever member having a first end and a second end, said cantilever member being pivoted at said first end to the stent, the cantilever member being resiliently pivotable from a first extended position in which the valve is in a closed position to a second position in which the valve is in the open position.
6. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in claim 5, wherein the valve comprises two cantilever members.
7. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the stent is constructed such that it can be expanded in diameter

from a "collapsed" configuration to an "expanded" configuration, wherein in the collapsed configuration, the stent is of narrower diameter than in the expanded configuration.

8. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in claim ~~7~~, ~~when dependent on claim 5 or claim 6~~ 5, wherein the stent is constructed such that it can be expanded in diameter from a "collapsed" configuration to an "expanded" configuration, wherein in the collapsed configuration, the stent is of narrower diameter than in the expanded configuration and wherein on expansion of the diameter of the stent, the second end of the cantilever member pivots to an extended position in which the material forming the valve and defining the aperture of the valve when in the open position is pulled such that the area of the aperture formed by the material is decreased.
9. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the stent is resiliently deformable at one or both ends to receive and enable connection with a second stent.
10. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the stent is shaped at one or both ends to enable connection to a second stent.
11. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, for linking a coronary artery to the left ventricle of the heart.
12. (Currently Amended) A cardiovascular stent as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1, to ~~10~~ for linking a first portion of an ascending venous structure and a second portion of the same ascending venous structure.
13. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a full or partial occlusion of a blood vessel comprising the steps of:
providing stent means wherein said stent means comprise at least one stent ~~as claimed in claims 1 to 12~~ having a generally tubular body and a synthetic one-way valve capable of moving from a first open position to a second closed position, wherein, in use, movement of fluid in a first direction through the stent causes the valve to adopt the open position and movement of fluid in a second opposite direction causes the valve to adopt the closed position.

- a first end of the lumen of the stent means being in communication with a cardiovascular compartment on a first side of the occlusion,
the second end of the lumen of the stent means being in communication with a cardiovascular compartment on the other side of the occlusion and allowing blood flow from the first side of the occlusion to the other side of the cardiovascular compartment through the lumen of the stent means.
14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the stent means comprises a plurality of stents longitudinally aligned to allow the flow of blood from a stent at a first end of the stent means to a stent at a second end of the stent means.
15. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, ~~or claim 14~~ further comprising the step of increasing the diameter of the stent from a reduced diameter in a collapsed position to an increased diameter in an expanded position.
16. (Currently Amended) A method for treating varicose veins comprising the step of: positioning stent means comprising at least one stent as claimed in ~~claims 1 to 12~~ claim 13 in a vein.
17. (Original) A method for treating varicose veins comprising the step of: replacing at least a part of a vein with stent means comprising at least one stent of the first aspect of the invention.
18. (Original) Tube means comprising a tubular portion and a valve, said valve comprising at least one cantilever member having a first end and a second end, said cantilever member being pivoted at said first end to the tubular portion, the cantilever member being resiliently pivotable from a first extended position in which the valve is in the closed position to a second position in which the valve is in the open position.
19. (Currently Amended) Tube means as claimed in claim 18, wherein in moving from the closed position to the open position the aperture of the valve is moved from being ellipisoidal to substantially circular.
20. (Currently Amended) A device for moving fluid comprising a tube as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 18 ~~or 19~~.

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Certain claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to better conform to US practice. The specification has been amended to add headings. An Abstract has been added to the Application. No new matter has been added to the Application. Entry of the Preliminary Amendment and an early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests that allowance be granted at the earliest date possible. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding Applicant's amendments or remarks, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (215) 988.2700.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

Respectfully submitted,



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